

**Remarks**

In the Final Office Action dated August 3, 2005, claims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,393,464 to Dieterman ("Dieterman") in view of Patent Application Publication US 2002/0107950 A1 to Lu ("Lu").

By this Amendment, claims 6 and 11-17 have been canceled without prejudice, new claims 18-30 have been added, and claims 2, 3, and 8 have been amended. New claims 18 and 26 are independent. No new matter has been entered.

The Examiner is thanked for the remarks in an Advisory Action dated October 25, 2005.

Newly-added independent claim 18 is directed to a method for operating an electronic messaging system, including the step of "updating a display for the at least one other approver according to a changed status for the electronic message." Neither Lu nor Dieterman disclose an electronic messaging system wherein a display to a second approver (or other approvers) are updated with respect to the approval status of the electronic message. Newly-added independent claim 26 also includes such a step.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claims 18 and 26 are allowable over the art of record. For the same reason, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims (2, 3, 8, 18-30) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant believes that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

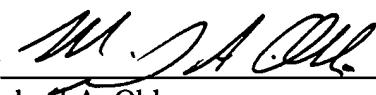
**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees should any be required for this submission, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

The Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for a two month Extension of Time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge the fee for such an Extension of Time or credit any overpayment for an Extension of Time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Dated: December 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Michael A. Oblon  
Registration No.: 42,956  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND  
DORR LLP  
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 942-8486  
Attorney for Applicant